

February 13, 2006

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FCC

RE: Notice of Public Rulemaking on 'Video Franchises' (05-311)

I am requesting that the FCC not change the rules requiring cable providers to allow access to their cables to local programming.

In San Francisco the cable monopoly is Comcast. As of now there are several PEG channels including KCSM, SFSF, STSF and others. I am a viewer and have also appeared on shows in the past.

I am concerned that the FCC will change the rules that require cable companies to provide time for locally-made shows that deliver original, local interest shows. The PEG TV channels reflect the diversity of local communities. They provide noncommercial programming for seniors, the disables, youth and multi-lingual programs for ethnic communities.

Commercial TV news is controlled by the six major media conglomerates that own 95% of news media outlets. In 1985 that same media was owned by over 50 companies. With any monopoly, it is the consumer that suffers as their options shrink. Only the PEG channels offer local news so we can stay informed about local government issues.

Not for profit organizations can freely or affordably access the tools and training to produce their own programming and to express their own point of view through the media.

I believe democracy works best when the widest range of ideas and opinions are circulated. PEG TV plays an important role in our democracy.

Make sure that the commercial cable providers must continue to provide access to their cables to local, non-profit, organizations and schools so that the public can get a wide range of information about the issues that affect everyone.

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